REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 9, and 16 have been amended.

Claims 1-38 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

In response, the claims have been amended to improve clarity and antecedent support.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the § 112, second paragraph rejections of the claims be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-22, and 24-38 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable in view of Bence, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,178) ("Bence") and U.S. Patent No. 6,594,664 to Estrada et al ("Estrada"). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, it is correctly recognized that Bence is silent as to teaching or suggesting, "wherein said specifying comprises **selecting and dragging** any one of the format file and the data file," emphasis added, as recited in independent claim 1. Nothing teaches or suggests the specifying of "any one of the format file and the data file," as recited in independent claim 1. Rather, an alignment is performed in Bence where a client's data file is compared to a data format in a given record to create a format corresponding to the client's data format.

Further, Bence generally describes a Find Closest Match module, automatically searching a known format database for a format that most closely matches the format of the data records in the client data file; and an Align Claim Data module, providing the operator with the capability of modifying the closest matching data format to create a new format matching the

specific client's data record format. <u>See</u> column 2, lines 35-33. However, <u>Bence</u> fails to teach or suggest, "a setting unit **setting** the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file **in accordance with the specifying operation**," emphasis added, as recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, <u>Bence</u> limits its description to generally describing a claim formatting method and computer program product capable of accepting files in numerous formats, which may be initially unknown, and formatting them into a common format for processing. <u>See</u> column 1, lines 44-47. <u>Bence</u> does not describe how the claim formatting method is performed and how the computer program product is capable of accepting files in numerous formats.

According to <u>Estrada</u>, a scene 224 is created in response to an open document command from browser 101, which caused form/scene loader 168 to go to QP database 230 to retrieve document 223 from which scene 224 was derived and displayed as a screen at browser 101. <u>See</u> FIG. 16. Scene 224 gave the user the opportunity to select NEW, resulting in an open form URL request being sent by browser 101 to server 137, which resulted in open form handler 167 creating a folder document 225 in memory and in forms/scene loader selecting and returning to browser 101 display scene 226.

However, <u>Estrada</u> limits its description to <u>converting</u> one format to a format of another category. Although <u>Estrada</u> describes in column 20, lines 46-49, "responsive to a user dragging and dropping one or more files, a client or a server is operable for converting the files to <u>HTML</u>," emphasis added, <u>Estrada</u> fails to teach or suggest, "selecting and dragging **any one of the format file and the data file**," as recited in independent claim 1.

Because independent claims 9 and 16 includes similar claim features as those recited in independent claim 1, although of different scope, the arguments presented above supporting the patentability of independent claim 1 are incorporated herein to support the patentability of independent claims 9 and 16.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 9, and 16 and related dependent claims be allowed.

On page 7 of the Office Action, claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Bence, Estrada,</u> and in view of Yuichi (JP 9282209) ("<u>Yuichi</u>").

Because claim 23 depends from independent claim 1, the combination of the cited references must teach all the claimed features recited in independent claim 1. Applicant

respectfully incorporates herewith the arguments previously presented supporting the patentability of independent claim 1 in view of <u>Bence</u> and <u>Estrada</u>. <u>Yuichi</u> generally describes in a displayed definition item name list of the input file and the item name list of the specified table, respective item positions are specified, and a when a drag-and-drop operation to a desired item of the output file is performed, setting is made as the set content of the desired item, and an index expression is set from the set content. However, assuming *arguendo*, that <u>Bence</u>, <u>Estrada</u>, and <u>Yuichi</u> were combined, a combination thereof would not teach or suggest, "wherein said specifying comprises selecting and dragging any one of the format file and the data file," as recited in independent claim 1. As previously set forth, <u>Bence</u> and <u>Estrada</u> are silent as to providing all the claimed features of the specifying control unit and the setting unit. <u>Yuichi</u> is similarly silent as to providing those features. Rather, definition item name list and a drag-and-drop operation is provided and nothing more. Thus, a combination of <u>Bence</u>, <u>Estrada</u>, and <u>Yuichi</u> would be silent as to providing all the claimed features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 1 and related dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner's contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.
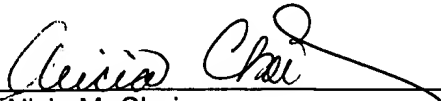
If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: ____May 27, 2004_____

By: _____
Alicia M. Choi
Registration No. 46,621

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501